

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 USIA-12 /022 W

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R 141400Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6065

UNCLAS NAIROBI 2168

FOR CU/AF

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC.KE

SUBJ: STAG MAL JOHNSON

IN FIVE-DAY VISIT TO KENYA, STAG MAL JOHNSON HELD ONE LECTURE/DISCUSSION WITH PRINT JOURNALISTS, ANOTHER WITH BROADCAST JOURNALISTS AND CONDUCTED TWO PROGRAMS AT KENYA INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS. ALSO INTERVIEWED THREE TIMES FOR RADIO AND APPEARED ON TWO TV INTERVIEWS. MET FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH WOMEN BROADCASTERS AT VOICE OF KENYA. ALL PROGRAMS TITLED "ROLE OF MASS MEDIA AS FORCE FOR CHANGE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT," BUT QUICKLY INCLUDED RACE RELATIONS ALSO. HER GENERALLY POSITIVE, ALWAYS BALANCED VIEWS VERY EFFECTIVE. SHE CONTINUALLY REITERATED HUMAN, NOT RACE, CONCERNS. THOUGH NOT POLLYANNA -- SHE CANDIDLY DISCUSSED PROBLEMS -- SHE EMPHASIZED PROGRESS AND STRESSED AMERICAN IN BLACK AMERICAN. FOR MOST OF AUDIENCE, SHE PROVIDED IMPRESSIVE AND PERSONAL DISCUSSION. ONE NEWSMAN CALLED IT "THE MOST INFORMATIVE PROGRAM HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO BY USIS." ANOTHER SAID "IT WAS WONDERFUL TO MEET AND HEAR SUCH A WOMAN TALK SENSIBLY AND WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST DEFENSIVENESS" ABOUT RACE RELATIONS. PRINCIPAL OF KENYA INSTITUTE OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS, WHERE SHE TWICE LED DISCUSSIONS, PRAISED HER FOR STIMULATING IN THE STUDENTS "SOME INQUISITIVENESS" AND FOR "CHALLENGING THEM TO BE BETTER THAN THEY ARE NOW." IN SUM, EXCELLENT PROGRAM WITH

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MUCH BENEFICIAL EFFECT IN MEDIA HERE. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.

CUSHING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NAIROB02168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740344/aaaaborv.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 26 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by hagers>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STAG MAL JOHNSON IN FIVE-DAY VISIT TO KENYA, STAG MAL JOHNSON HELD
TAGS: OEXC, KE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005